

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 42

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the ministers and congregation of Epworth United Methodist Church upon their 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflinching capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Epworth United Methodist Church in Williamson County, the members of which, are celebrating the church's 100th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Epworth United Methodist Church was formed in 1909 as a result of the consolidation of two churches, Thomas Chapel and North's Chapel; and

WHEREAS, using bricks from the dismantled Thomas Chapel, the new church was completed in 1909 and dedicated in 1910; it was built on land donated by Jess A. Pierce and Mittie Toon Pierce near Arno Road in Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, since its humble beginnings, the church leaders and congregation at Epworth United Methodist have been forward thinking, expanding the size of the church buildings over the decades to keep up with the growth of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, by the 1950s, Epworth United Methodist Church had set a new standard for rural Methodist churches in Williamson County; the church had become a charge with its own

pastor, parsonage, strong church program with good attendance, and a Sunday school annex;
and

WHEREAS, continuing in its mission and Christian endeavors, Epworth United Methodist Church was named “Rural Church of the Year” in 1960 by the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, with remarkable faith and significant contributions by the congregation, further expansion was realized in the next few decades as Epworth continued its worthy mission of spreading the Good News of the Lord to its members and the world at large. The Vaden Fellowship Hall and the Reverend James Underwood Educational Wing was dedicated in 1987, laying the groundwork for an expansion of new outreach programs for youth members, Disciple Bible Studies, and participation in “Room at the Inn”; and

WHEREAS, recently, with attendance growing, the congregation again contemplated the direction and mission of the church and its ministry; seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit, the members chose to construct a new sanctuary for Epworth United Methodist Church; Dr. LeNoir Culbertson held the first service in the newly constructed sanctuary in 2004; and

WHEREAS, utilizing congregational input, expectant prayer, and acts of faith throughout their history, the devout members of Epworth United Methodist Church have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Epworth United Methodist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Williamson County, Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Epworth United Methodist Church, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.